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**Bureau of Land Management - Colorado**



**June 15, 2010**

## **BLM in the Spotlight**

### **Extreme Mustang Makeover draws emotional reaction from new owners**

*By Sarah J. Fast, Special to the BLM*



Tears streamed down the face of 11-year-old Brooke Lobue and her mother, Stacie Lobue, from Loveland, Colo. as they secured the final bid that won Brooke her first horse, a Bureau of Land Management mustang from the Jackson Mountain herd area in Nevada.

The horse was one of 37 selected for the Extreme Mustang Makeover held in Fort Collins on June 11-13. The competition gave trainers 90 days to prepare a wild horse to be judged on their body condition, trail competition, reining, working cattle, and most importantly to be adopted.

The Lobue's heard about this event through a friend, and decided they wanted to adopt a mustang because of their durability. Coming to the competition, they were surprised to find how well-trained and solid the horses had become thanks to the hard work of the trainers.

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Brooke and Stacie had their eyes on horse #12 throughout the competition, so when it came to bidding time, they knew that they had to take him home.

"We both dreamt about this horse and couldn't get him out of our heads," said Stacie. "We knew he was the one."

Although they ended up bidding higher than they expected, Stacie says it was worth it to see her daughter happy and to get the horse they wanted.

Each horse at the competition was adopted for an average price of \$1,815. The highest adoption price was \$7,500 for the Reserve Champion mustang, Marvin. The funds from the adoptions are split between the trainers, the Mustang Heritage Foundation, and the BLM.

For more information on the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition, visit [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com), or for more information about the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program, visit [www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild\\_horse\\_and\\_burro.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html).

You can also learn about adopting a horse or burro from our Cañon City facility by visiting [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/wild\\_horse\\_and\\_burro/ccwhbreq.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/wild_horse_and_burro/ccwhbreq.html).

## BLM Mesas Replanted with Native Seedlings

*By Gretchen  
Fitzgerald, Pagosa  
Field Office Small  
Sales Forester*

PAGOSA SPRINGS – The Pagosa Public Lands Office mounted a large reforestation effort this spring after several years of work to restore BLM lands on Vigil and Abeyta Mesas southwest of Chromo, Colorado.



The problem dated back to a 1950s logging operation when the mesas were replanted with seedlings from South Dakota. The non-native trees grew for a few decades but then began to

## Employee Spotlight

### Say Hello to the New BLM Royal Gorge Field Manager!

If you're heading to the Royal Gorge Field Office, stop in and congratulate Keith Berger on his new post as the Royal Gorge Field Manager. Keith isn't new to the Royal Gorge Field Office, but he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position as field manager.

Keith graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology in 1985 and began working for the Royal Gorge Field Office in 1989 where he has worked in a number of positions including Rangeland Management Specialist, Resource Advisor, and Non-renewable Resource Supervisor. Keith has worked several details over the years in other positions in the Colorado State Office as well as a six-month detail as the Gunnison Field Manager early last year.

"My family and I love Canon City and surrounding areas," Keith said. "I'm thrilled to be able to serve in a new position in the Cañon City office and to be involved in the management of public lands."

Keith worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Bridger/Teton National Forest in Pinedale, Wyoming and for the U.S. Agricultural Research Service in Grand Junction and Greeley before coming to the BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office in 1989. Keith is preceded by Royal Gorge Field Manager Roy Masinton who retired in 2009.

Keith is married to Jolee and they have a son, Zach, 19, and a daughter, Nicole, 15. His interests include hunting, fishing, hiking, dirt biking and spending time with his family.

sicken. USFS entomologists, pathologists, and geneticists attributed the cause to the fact that the original nursery stock was not adapted to the latitude, elevation, climatic conditions, or soils of the area.

The solution was to remove the non-native stands to avoid their genetic intermixing with nearby native ponderosa stands. After environmental analysis in 2002 and 2003, the diseased pines and intermingled oak on about 700 acres were mulched with mechanical equipment. This was followed by intermittent prescribed burning operations from 2006 to 2009.

This spring, the BLM launched a huge reforestation project to restore healthy pine stands to the denuded landscape with the long-term goals of resilience and sustainability for wildlife habitat, the watershed, and forest ecosystem. The project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and American Forests Global ReLeaf Grant Program.

The planting operation was contracted out to the private sector this spring, with 126,000 native seedlings provided by the USFS Bessey Nursery. Some three dozen planters placed 300 seedlings per acre across 422 acres.

Seedlings were planted with varied spacing for a natural look, and most were planted in the shade of oak trees or old stumps to shelter them from the elements. Those planted in the open were protected with round tubes to shade them until they get established.

Reestablishing a ponderosa pine-dominant forest will bring back foraging and nesting habitat for several species of wildlife. The planting of a native forest will also help keep noxious weeds in check and set the stage to use prescribed burning in the future to keep stands healthy and wildfire resilient.

## Ask BLM

**Q:** Which BLM Colorado area contains the highest known archaeological site density in the United States?

**A:** Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The more than 6,000 recorded sites reflect all the physical components of past human life: villages, field houses, check dams, reservoirs, great kivas, cliff dwellings, shrines, sacred springs, agricultural fields, petroglyphs, and sweat lodges. Some areas have more than 100 sites per square mile. The number of sites is estimated to be 20,000 to 30,000 total.



## Places to Visit

### The San Miguel River Corridor

#### Description

The tame and peaceful San Miguel River is one of the few remaining naturally flowing rivers in the West. The river flows for 72 miles as it drops over 7,000 feet from the high alpine meadows and waterfalls above Telluride to a deep red sandstone canyon where it joins the Dolores River.

Rafting is one way to explore the river, but a scenic drive along the corridor also provides beautiful views and several access points for fishing,



## In the News

### [BLM reviews input on options for The Crown \(6/14/10\)](#)

CARBONDALE — As Bureau of Land Management officials sift through various options to manage The Crown — a roughly 9,100-acre playground southwest of Carbondale — one thing seems certain: Somebody's not going to be happy.

### [Environmental groups, recreational community divided over land protection \(6/14/10\)](#)

EDWARDS — Three citizen-crafted proposals to expand Colorado's wilderness acreage could increase the state's wildest lands by more than 1 million acres, marking one of the most sweeping pushes to protect Colorado's wilderness.

### [Access to Dominguez Canyon area frustrating, dangerous for hikers \(6/13/10\)](#)

Hikers and riders bound for the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area are routinely frustrated by trains blocking their way to the beckoning canyons, rock art and high plateaus beyond the rail line.

### [Simulated Training \(6/12/10\)](#)

The Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy wraps its weeklong event here Sunday.

### [Show struts out made-over mustangs \(6/12/10\)](#)

Horse trainers from eight states will trot nearly 40 wild mustangs into the ring this weekend to show what the horses can do and, hopefully, find them new homes, too.

### [Finding profitable use for trees destroyed by pine beetles \(6/11/10\)](#)

It's become a depressingly familiar sight to anyone who drives into Colorado's mountains along I-70 and points north: Miles of steep mountain slopes covered with rust-brown, dead pine trees.

### [BLM Clamping Down On Squatters \(6/10/10\)](#)

DENVER - In order to combat squatters, the Bureau of Land Management is clamping down on camping regulations in Colorado.

picnicking and camping. The corridor contains rare plants and supports numerous species of birds and other wildlife.

The area has been preserved thanks to a partnership between the BLM and The Nature Conservancy.

#### Location

The 28-mile river corridor can be accessed along State Highway 145 between Placerville and Naturita.

#### Visitor Activities

Scenic drives, fishing, rafting, picnicking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, plant viewing, geologic sightseeing, historic sites, rock climbing and bouldering.

#### Special Features

The woodland surrounding the river contains a variety of plant life which provide cover for elk and deer, as well as a number of bird, reptile, and amphibian species. The river itself contains a large array of game and nongame fish as well as otters, which can be spotted regularly in the lower segments of the river corridor. In addition the vast array of life, the area also holds numerous sites of archeological and historical significance.

#### Directions

From Placerville, take State Highway 145 (part of the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic Byway) for about 33 miles to Naturita. The northern part of this area is accessible via the river, or from the State Highway 90 turn-off, 3 miles east of Naturita.

#### Contact Information

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## Recent Press Releases

- [August oil and gas lease sale scheduled\(06/11/2010\)](#)
- [Animas City Mountain Fuels Reduction to Begin this Month \(06-07-10\)](#)
- [Ute Indians Host Grand Junction Pow Wow \(06-07-10\)](#)
- [More BLM Trailheads Close for Upgrades \(06-07-10\)](#)
- [BLM Seeks Public Comment on Bridgeport Access to Dominguez Canyon Wilderness \(06-09-10\)](#)
- [BLM Director Seeks Input for New Direction in National Wild Horse and Burro Program \(6/03/10\)](#)
- [BLM Begins Construction on Two New Trailheads in Cactus Park \(06-02-10\)](#)
- [New BLM Sign Vandalized Days After Completion \(6-01-10\)](#)

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